

**From:** Wayne Hedberg  
**To:** Doug Jensen, Lynn Kunzler  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 16, 1999 12:02 PM  
**Subject:** Hecla Escalante Silver Mine/Dixie Cable Co. - M/021/004

On April 14, 1999, Mr. Clifford Dunn (attorney for Dixie Cable) met with Doug Taylor and Allan Moore of the Division of Solid and Hazardous Wastes. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the state/federal standards/criteria for disposal of mining and milling related wastes at the Hecla Escalante mine site.

Mr. Dunn represents Dixie Cable Company who is the party taking over a portion of the property associated with the Hecla's mine and mill. They have apparently had an environmental audit performed by Clinefelder Associates (spl.) who have prepared a report on their findings. Copies of that report are forthcoming to DSHW (and DOGM?) which contain analytical results of tests performed on the residual mining/milling wastes.

Doug Taylor informed me that the following materials were sampled and may be of concern as possible hazardous wastes.

1. Residual solids from plant/process area washdown that now reside in the thickner tank at the mill. These solids apparently show elevated levels of lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic, barium, selenium and silver (may be others also). The levels may be high enough for this material to be considered a hazardous waste.
2. Residual liquids (volume uncertain?) associated with washdown of the mill also are high in metals. Dixie Cable is considering using some form of extractive process to remove and sell the metals, then use the cleaned water for irrigation and/or fertilization of their greenhouse plants.
3. Residual wasterock stockpile materials apparently have some elevated levels of lead. This material has been used as crushed road base (apparently on site?). Doug Taylor stated this material would probably be considered as Bevell Exempt as a mill processing/beneficiation waste. However, there could be some concern with its application from the standpoint of potential surface and groundwater contamination (Doug said he would approach DWQ for a reading on this).

Doug stated that Mr. Dunn would be sending him a copy of the Clinefelder report (He'll ask for second copy for us). After review of the report, Doug said his agency would work with the company to develop a plan for appropriate neutralization and disposal of the materials determined hazardous. He indicated that portland cement is sometimes used to bind up the metals to make them unleachable. Material could then be disposed of at a municipal land fill site.

A question and possible concern remains regarding our continued regulatory jurisdiction over the subsequent processing/extraction of the metals from the process waste water. This is uncertain at this time. I advised Mr. Taylor we would need to take a closer look at this before we make our final decision to accept the proposed change in land use that is pending. We agreed to stay in touch over this matter.

**A copy of this email will be copied to the Hecla mine file. - M/021/004**